



January Update!

Happy New Year to you and your family!

I hope that you have managed to have some fun and relaxation over the holiday despite the various restrictions. I am sure we can all agree that this is not the way we wanted to start 2021, but I know that we will continue to work together throughout this lockdown to support our children.

Buttercup

Recently in the Buttercup room we have been exploring lots of activities that invite us to use our senses. The children have enjoyed learning about all our different senses and we have watched these activities promote lots of development with speech as well as fine and gross motor skills! These activities have led to us exploring our senses not only indoors, but outside too. We have been on various walks where we have investigated the ice by looking and touching! If any children are enjoying some sensory activities at home or outdoors, we would love to see some photos! We hope to be creating more sensory fun for all the buttercup children soon!

Daisy

In Daisy we are currently focusing settling the children back into a nursery routine and helping them build relationships with staff and their peers, and supporting some children as they transition to using the toilet.

We currently have a big interest in ice, talking about the weather and what clothes we need to wear. Which we will continue to look at over the next couple of weeks.

The children are also really engaging in puzzles recently. We have a variety of puzzles available every day, ranging from the peg board style, up to 12 piece puzzles, to give the children a variety and to challenge them.

Could we please ask that all children come to nursery with warm clothes to enjoy the outdoors comfortably, this includes: Warm coat, waterproof trousers/all in one suit, welly boots, hat, scarf and gloves. We would also ask that children come in with a water bottle daily and a couple of spare changes of clothes, that can be kept at nursery.

Over the next few weeks, we will continue to post out activity ideas, recipes and our favourite stories, to give you some different ideas to do at home, we would love to see photos of how you get on with them!

Bluebell

In Bluebell the children have been showing a keen interest in the changing weather with a particular focus on ice that we keep finding in our nursery garden. We have been enjoying some group discussions about the changing weather asking lots of questions to find out the information we would like to know. We have been discussing how ice forms and melts and have found out through investigating that touching the ice the warmth from our hands can melt it! To further investigate why and how ice melts we have been enjoying some ice painting and we even helped free some dinosaurs who were stuck in the ice.

Staffing Update

On the 5th January we welcomed Karyn McKinnon, Molly Reape, Katie Craig, Bethany Hamilton, Nadiya Islam and Latisha Smillie to the nursery team.

Karyn - Hi my name is Karyn, and I am really excited to be joining the Almond Park Team. I have worked in childcare for 10 years now and have a wide range of experience, it has been a great pleasure getting to know some of the children in the bluebell room and I can't wait to work alongside everyone to create a fun and enriching learning environment.

Latisha - Hi, my name is Latisha but I go by Tisha most of the time. I'm a very cheerful, bubbly person. In my family children are always the priority and we always do our best to do what's right for them. I've grown up around children and it's amazing, fun.

Molly - Hi I'm Molly I have recently qualified as a child practitioner. I used to work in an after-school club but decided I would love to work in a nursery environment. I am a very bubbly and smiley person who is always keen to improve your child's ability to play and learn.

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Nadiya - Hi my name is Nadiya, I joined Almond Park start of January. I moved from Qatar 2 years ago after getting married, my dream job has always been to work in childcare.

I have just finished my 2nd week, it's been brilliant getting to know all the children. They are all just little bundles of joy. Unfortunately I haven't had a chance to meet any parents yet but look forward to saying hello, once we are out this pandemic.

Katie - Hello my name is Katie. I have really enjoyed meeting some of the children and I can't wait to meet more. I used to dance all the time which involved meeting children and building bonds with them. I love to spend time with family and friends.

Bethany – Hi my name is Bethany. I am a new modern apprentice and before joining Almond Park nursery I was in college studying childhood practice. I have joined the nursery to gain more hands on experience as working with children is something I have wanted to do for a while.

Weather Appropriate Clothing

All clothing provided for weather appropriate play **MUST** be clearly labelled. Please ensure your child has the following items to allow them to access all play experiences, scarfs, gloves, hats, wellies, and waterproof suits.

These items must remain in the nursery where possible.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We hope you find this interesting and please do speak with a member of staff if you would like further details or if you would like to comment or make suggestions for future topics.